



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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PSC SETS INTERVENTION DEADLINE IN VERIZON CASE

Jefferson City (December 11, 2001)---GTE Midwest Incorporated d/b/a Verizon Midwest and CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC have filed a joint application with the Missouri Public Service Commission seeking Commission authority for the transfer of certain assets from Verizon Midwest to CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC. That transfer would include all of Verizon's 98 telephone exchanges (including Columbia, Branson, Wentzville and Hermann) in Missouri. If the application is approved by the Commission, Verizon Midwest local telephone customers would become local telephone customers of CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC. Verizon serves approximately 369,000 access lines in Missouri.

Applications to intervene and participate in this case must be filed on or before **January 4, 2002**, with Dale Hardy Roberts, Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

Verizon Midwest and CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC state in the joint application: "The proposed transaction is not detrimental to the public interest in that CenturyTel possesses the managerial, engineering and financial expertise necessary to continue to provide the quality of service that Verizon currently provides to its customers in the enumerated exchanges. CenturyTel is committed to providing the most modern technology available."

The joint application further states: "CenturyTel proposes no immediate change in the operation of Verizon's properties as a result of the proposed transaction and, in fact, proposes to retain all of Verizon's existing employees who currently provide service to these exchanges. Moreover, CenturyTel proposes no immediate changes in the rates, terms and conditions of the telecommunications service that Verizon currently provides to customers in the enumerated exchanges."

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